

## HALL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING JANUARY 23, 2007

The Hall County Board of Supervisors met January 23, 2007, by published call in the county board meeting room, 121 South Pine, Grand Island.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Arnold.

INVOCATION - Invocation was given.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

ROLL CALL - Present on roll call were, Scott Arnold, Jim Eriksen, Bob Humiston, Bud Jeffries, Pamela Lancaster and Daniel Wagoner. Bob Rye was absent. Also present was a representative from the *Grand Island Independent* and Deputy County Attorney Michelle Oldham.

NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING LAW – Chairman Arnold read the notice of the open meeting law.

CONSENT AGENDA – Lancaster made a motion and Jeffries seconded to approve the following by consent agenda:

1. Accepted and placed on file the minutes of the January 9 meeting
2. 5c Set the public hearing for the Union Pacific Railroad closing for February 6 at 9:30 a.m.
3. 5d Set the bid opening for a motor grader for February 20 at 9:30 a.m.
4. 5e Set the public hearing for the 1 & 6 Road Program for February 20, at 9:45 a.m.
5. 11 the food stamp proclamation will be postponed for two weeks
6. 13 Received and placed on file the keno financial report
7. 19 Placed on file the settlement of the Hall County Treasurer
8. 23 Placed on file the office report from the County Attorney
9. 24 Placed on file the Hall County Treasurer's Miscellaneous Receipts
10. 25 Placed on file communications as received.

Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Wagoner all voted yes and none voted no. Rye was absent. Motion carried.

## COUNTY ATTORNEY – No items

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Chairman Arnold called for public participation and Gary Quandt 3356 North Gunbarrel Road requested to speak. He stated he wanted to address item 7 regarding the county board committees. He stated that he thinks the county is heading for the county manager form of government and ask the board to abolish the committee form of government. The committees need to be incorporated into open meetings so all of the board members would receive the same information. He also questioned why the boards of corrections meetings are not aired on GITV. It was the board's decision not to video the board of corrections and no reason why it cannot be included.

18 DISCUSS CHILDRENS VILLAGE BUILDING – Scott Dugan with Mid Plains was present. Jeffries stated that he was asked if the Children's Village building has been discussed in the building and ground committee and Mr. Dugan wanted to address the board regarding this. Mr. Dugan stated that the lease agreement for the Children's Village is still in place. The staff secure services have been discontinued and he questioned if the other services should fall under a new agreement. He is asking for action from the county on this issue. In order for them to grow they need more space but the old lease does not allow them to use the space for other purposes. A draft lease was sent to the County Attorney but no action has been taken. Mr. Dugan stated that they are incurring \$5,000.00 a month in expenses on the building. He is asking the board to take action with the new lease agreement for this facility in 30 days or it will be turned over to the county.

Jeffries noted that even though they have maintained the building they have not paid any rent.

Lancaster noted that the services have been discontinued and there is still not a definite plan for the staff secure but the county needs to decide if they may have a use for the building.

Eriksen stated there are several issues that need to be addressed and they need to be resolved but it may take some time and it may not be completed in two weeks. The facilities committee needs to meet with the County Attorney and move forward. .

Mr. Dugan requested that the county board make a commitment that action will be taken regarding this issue.

Jeffries stated that the county may have a need for this building but stated he did not think it could be done in two weeks.

Arnold noted that the committee assignments are shifting but he feels that this can be addressed at the next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR RAILROAD CROSSING CLOSING AT 150<sup>TH</sup> ROAD – Lancaster made a motion and Jeffries seconded to open the public hearing. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Wagoner all voted yes and none voted no. Rye was absent. Motion carried.

County Surveyor Casey Sherlock was present. He stated that this issue was brought to the County a year ago. Cargill and Fuel Solution brought a proposal for an ethanol plant but this railroad crossing and the proposed closing was a critical part for this future development. They proposed a bypass road that would alleviate some of the traffic and the cost of this would be reimbursed by the state.

Chairman Arnold called for public participation.

Dale Johnson Bio Fuels Site Manager was present and stated that the county has been good neighbors. He wanted to stress that by closing the crossing it improves the efficiency of the plant. They will be able to move cars on the tracks and move the products more efficiently. If the crossing is not closed it would jeopardize the completion of the project. This project will offer good opportunities and good paying jobs. They are a family company and will participate in the local economy.

Chairman Arnold called for public participation. Phil Harder, General Manager for Cargill 3211 Dixie Square was present. He stated that the economic impact on a per bushel cost will be 25 cents to 50 cents per bushel. There is another proposed plant for the area and both of the plants will affect the economy of the entire area. He explained how there is a power switch at the end of their tracks that allows them to pull the switch so the trains do not have to stop and now there will be another switch on the east end so when the trains pull on the site there will always be an empty tract so the trains will not have to slow down. The access road demonstrated the support for the project and if the closing of the crossing would have been a problem the project would have not been started. In 2011 there is a proposed overpass for Wood River. This is a \$150 million Project and it would be hard to say that we can't find a way to work it out.

Monty Moss Utility Director for the City of Wood River, he stated that Wood River has made a commitment to this project. There is some opposition to the project but the city Council and Mayor support it and Wood River will provide some of the infrastructure. The property will be annexed into the City of Wood River and it is important that the crossing be closed so the project can move forward.

Arnold noted that the county is not opposed to closing the crossing only what may happened if it is closed. The public hearing is required in order to close the crossing. This is a serious economic issue for Wood River and we do not want to jeopardize it.

Jennifer Reed the administrative assistant for Bio Fuels stated that she has worked in Alda for 6 years and this will affect the economic future for Wood River. She stated she has sympathy for the farms but this will affect the economic future of the area.

Monty Moss from Wood River also wanted to point out that a viaduct over the railroad will start in 2009 with a completion date of 2011. He noted that legislation has been introduced regarding blocked crossings and that is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Wagoner stated that the issues have been explained to the public and he thanked them for the time. The economics of this project will override the concerns on the blocked crossings.

Lancaster made a motion and Jeffries seconded to close the public hearing. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Wagoner all voted yes and none voted no. Rye was absent. Motion carried.

Casey Sherlock stated he has a resolution but would like to work with Deputy County Attorney Michelle Oldham regarding this and bring it back in two weeks.

Jeffries thanked the people in attendance for the good information.

**6 DISCUSS AND APPROVE CONTRACT WITH DLR GROUP FOR SPACE PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR REMODEL OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER AND RELATED SPACE NEEDS** – Lancaster stated that the board has a copy of the draft of this document but Michelle has reviewed it and she will get a clean copy to be signed. This will allow DLR to analyze the safety center structure issues and the remodeling that will need to be done. A space needs request was sent to various departments requesting their input and this will also be addressed. The cost estimates will address these needs and how the boiler system that supplies the heating and cooling will be addressed. The boiler system is located in the basement of the old 1900 portion of the jail.

The cost for the services will be \$44,160.00. The pre-design work for the correction department was \$32,500.00 for the first proposal and the corrections department that is under construction now was \$31,970.00

Lancaster made a motion and Jeffries seconded to authorize the chair to sign the contract with DLR for the pre-design work for the safety center remodel.

Jeffries noted that it is necessary to move quickly because the correction department will be moving in one year.

Eriksen expressed concern on the cost of the pre-design work. Lancaster stated that it is important to proceed quickly because the City will be vacating the old safety center in September of this year and the county needs to be ready to proceed as soon as possible.

Wagoner expressed concern on the condition of the old safety center. The old jail will be vacated before any remodel work is done.

The vote on the motion to sign the agreement with DLR was taken. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Wagoner all voted yes and none voted no. Rye was absent. Motion carried.

## **7 DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMITTEE PROCESS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Eriksen stated that he would like to see the board improve the committee process and suggested scheduling regular meetings. The meetings could be scheduled before or after the regular board meetings or on the off Tuesdays. Now Stacey has to call coordinate the meeting times.

Arnold stated that he would appreciate having a set schedule. Most of the committees meet on an as needed basis but some of the committee's need to meet regularly. The computer committee meets every two weeks and with all of the changes at the

corrections department the also meet regularly. A meeting can be canceled if it is not needed.

Eriksen also addressed the need for a tracking system on board projects. He suggested identifying the projects and placing them on a schedule so the board members will know the status of a specific project. Arnold stated that he will work with Stacey regarding this.

Lancaster also addressed the fact that some committees may need to meet on a regular basis. The committee's do the ground work for the information that is necessary to bring forward to the county board, then it can be discussed and move forward with a decision. She does not want to see the committee system lost and she would support a set schedule for the committees to meet.

Arnold also stated that he does not want to go away from the committee system. He expressed concern that the full board may not be able to address some issues in a work study session as effectively as a committee.

Eriksen stated that no action is necessary when the new committees are set they can reorganize and move forward.

Chairman Arnold called for a recess

Returned to regular session at 11:10 a.m.

9 DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS – Chairman Arnold presented a copy of the committee assignments to the board members. Stacey Ruzicka suggested that on the insurance committee assignment they list just a member of the CWA bargaining unit instead of a person.

Jeffries made a motion and Eriksen seconded to approve the committee assignments. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Wagoner all voted yes and none voted no with Rye absent. Motion carried.

10. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROCESS TO FILL WEED BOARD VACANCY – Humiston stated that the Weed Control Authority Board received the resignation of William Dibbern and accepted it at the last meeting. This position is out side of the city limits and there are two years remaining on the term. The board needs to take applications for the vacancy. Discussion was held.

Jeffries made a motion and Lancaster seconded to advertise for the position and accept application until February 5<sup>th</sup> until 12:00 p.m. and hold a special meeting for interviews on Monday February 12 at 6:00 p.m. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Wagoner all voted yes and none voted no. Rye was absent. Motion carried.

12. DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION REGARDING PURCHASE OF FOUR WHEELER FOR GIS DEPARTMENT – Jake Ripp and Doug Drudik were present. Jake stated that there were dollars budgeted for extra equipment in the GIS budget and they have not used those dollars and they would like to purchase a new 4-wheeler. The one they currently use is the old one from the Weed Department. Most of the corners that need to be set are along the Platt River and it is necessary to use a 4 wheeler.

Jeffries questioned if they had looked at a used machine and Jake stated that he had priced several units but the state bid from B&B Cycle in Norfolk was \$500.00 cheaper than the quote on a used machine. The trailer that they use will hold two units. Jeffries questioned if there is a county policy regarding the use of motorcycle helmets and if not there should be one.

Lancaster noted there is money in the budget and the department could have just purchased the equipment but they chose to come to the board to request the purchase.

Lancaster made a motion and Wagoner seconded to authorize the purchase of a 4-wheeler with funds from the GIS budget and to use the state bid. The total bid was \$4,899.00. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Wagoner all voted yes and none voted no. Rye was absent. Motion carried.

**16 COMMENCE AUDIT OF BI WEEKLY PAY CLAIMS AND REGULAR CLAIMS AND ACTION ON CLAIM AUDIT** – The board members received the board pre-approval list of the claims and reviewed the claims. Lancaster made a motion and Jeffries seconded to approve the bi weekly pay claims and the regular claims and authorize the County Clerk to pay. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Wagoner all voted yes and none voted no. Rye was absent. Motion carried

**17 DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON RESOLUTION PROHIBITING CONCEALED WEAPONS ON HALL COUNTY PROPERTY** – State law allows business to prohibit concealed weapons on property; but this does not apply to law enforcement.

Jeffries made a motion and Eriksen seconded to approve Resolution #07-003 prohibiting concealed weapons on county property. This resolution states firearms of any kind. Signs will be placed on all county property.

Supervisor Wagoner expressed concern that everyone has the right to bear arms and questioned if this would affect the Cornhusker Army Ammo Plant. This is not county property so this should not affect that. He also questioned if Hall County Park would be posted. Jeffries stated that there have been some incidents at the park and he would like to see them banned there also.

Eriksen stated that he supported this resolution. This will not affect parking areas if an individual has guns for hunting in a vehicle, they just have to be stored according to state law.

Lancaster stated that the county properties need to be safe and the signage will need to agree with the resolution.

The vote on the motion was taken. Arnold, Eriksen Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster all voted yes and Wagoner voted no. Rye was absent. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS – Chairman Arnold called for board member reports. He noted that several of the board members attend the City Council work study regarding the cell phone surcharge. The county needs to stay informed on this issue.

Lancaster reported that Senior Citizens have completed the remodeling and they have a beauty shop and a second hand store. Midland Area Agency on Agency held a meeting and she has copies of their annual report. She attended a Convention & Visitors Bureau meeting and is also on a committee that is working on the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Hall County. It will also be Stuhr Museums' 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Wagoner – He attended the City council joint meeting at the Heartland Shooting Park and was impressed with the park. He also noted that the cost to use the shooting park is very reasonable.

Eriksen – He reported that he is on the search committee for he emergency management director and they met last Friday. He also requested that the personal reviews for Stacey Ruzicka be returned to him.

Arnold stated that he was also impressed with the Heartland Shooting Park. He also stated that he has a new appreciation for the board chair position. He also encouraged the board members to sign up for the KRGI radio spots.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next meeting will be February 6, at 9:00 a.m.

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Marla J. Conley Hall County Clerk